	(Million tons)
Orissa	40.4
Punjab	474.0
Rajasthan	510.1
Tamil Nadu	193.9
Tripura	0.9
Uttar Pradesh	5.7
West Bengal	1.2
Pondicherry	0.4
All India	8576.5

Paddy and wheat production

1053. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of production of paddy and wheat during the last three years stating the country variety, foreign variety and the mixed variety; and

(b) the extent of growing dependence on the World Seed Bank and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Variety-wise estimates of production of paddy and wheat are not maintained. Therefore, the estimates of production of total paddy and wheat in the country during last three years are given below:

(*Million tons*)

Year	Paddy	Wheat
1999-2000	134.52	76.37
2000-01	127.31	68.76
2001-02*	137.42	71.47

*Fourth Advance Estimates as on 27.6.2002

(b) For increasing the production of paddy and wheat, it is necessary to develop new varieties having characteristics of higher yield, tolerance to drought, cold, pests, diseases etc. The indigenous germ plasm is not sufficient to develop such new varieties. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resoruces provides a multilateral system of exchange of germ plasm for research purposes to develop new varieties for the benefit of mankind and world food security. Therefore,

India has to depend on International Rice Research Institute, Manila, Phillippines and Centre for International Wheat and Maize Development, Mexico for germ plasm of paddy and wheat respectively. The achievement of the green revolution has come about basically through transfer of good traits (characters) from the material obtained from Dwarf Rice and Dwarf Wheat from these International Institutes.

Construction of cold storage in Tripura

1054. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cultivators of Tripura produce bumper quantity of green rabi crops, every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the surplus green crops cannot be preserved for shortage of cold storages; and

(c) whether the Central Government would provide funds to construct new cold storages at strategic places in Tripura, as demanded under NEC programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per available information, the production of fruits and vegetables in Tripura during last two years is as under:

(000' MT)

Year	Fruits	Vegetables
1999-2000	372.1	232.8
2000-01	450.8	328.1

For preservation of surplus produce adequate post-harvest handling/cold storage facilities are essential.

(c) The Government of India, through National Horticulture Board (NHB), is providing financial assistance to promote post-harvest handling/cold storage facilities in the country including Tripura. The NHB under its scheme "Capital Investment subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storage/ Storage for Horticulture Produce" has provided subsidy amounting to Rs. 279.40 lakhs for creating 18,500 MT cold storage facilities in Tripura since December, 1999. The Scheme is project based under which a subsidy @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakhs per project is given. However, for North-Eastern States including Sikkim, a higher subsidy @33.33% of the project cost with a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakhs per project is provided.